

House Resolution 941

By: Representatives Brooks of the 63rd, Williams of the 165th, Smyre of the 132nd, Jones of the 44th, Abrams of the 84th, and others

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Honoring Mr. John Roosevelt "Jackie" Robinson; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, John Roosevelt "Jackie" Robinson was born on January 31, 1919, in a
3 sharecropper's frame house near Cairo, Georgia; and
- 4 WHEREAS, when Jackie was about two years old, Mrs. Robinson took the future Baseball
5 Hall of Fame player and his four brothers to Pasadena, California, to find work and a place
6 to live where some of her relatives had settled; and
- 7 WHEREAS, Jackie Robinson excelled in athletics, winning honors in a number of sports,
8 including football, basketball, track, tennis, and baseball in high school, during his years at
9 Pasadena Junior College and at the University of California at Los Angeles; and
- 10 WHEREAS, he was drafted in 1942 for service in World War II, attended officer candidate
11 school, and was commissioned as a second lieutenant in 1943; and
- 12 WHEREAS, while he was in the Army at Fort Hood, Texas, he stood his ground in
13 upholding an antisegregation policy which had come down from Washington, withstanding
14 racially motivated court-martial proceedings, and winning an acquittal and an honorable
15 discharge as a first lieutenant in 1945; and
- 16 WHEREAS, he married Rachel Isum and had three children; and
- 17 WHEREAS, after a stint with the Kansas City Monarchs of the Negro National League, he
18 joined the Brooklyn Dodgers organization in 1946 as a farm team player for the Montreal
19 Royals; and

1 WHEREAS, he became the first black man to play major league baseball in the United
2 States, playing first base for the Dodgers in 1947; and

3 WHEREAS, 60 years have now passed since Jackie Robinson broke down the color barrier
4 in major league baseball; and

5 WHEREAS, he retired from baseball in 1957 after ten years with the Dodgers, which
6 included six National League pennants, six All-Star seasons, the 1955 World Series
7 Championship, and the reputation of being the best defensive second baseman of his
8 generation; and

9 WHEREAS, he served in business and on numerous civic boards and commissions and was
10 a leading figure in the civil rights movement and a vigorous advocate of drug education
11 programs for youth; and

12 WHEREAS, in 1962, he became the first black athlete elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame;
13 and

14 WHEREAS, in 1972, he was honored at the opening of the World Series in a ceremony
15 commemorating the twenty-fifth anniversary of his first major league season; and

16 WHEREAS, he passed from this world two weeks later, leaving it a better and fairer place
17 for his having lived.

18 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
19 the members of this body honor "Jackie" Robinson, whose athletic talents, perseverance, and
20 dignity surpassed the barriers of his time and won respect from all, on this the sixtieth
21 anniversary of his first major league season.

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
23 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the public and the press.